

I claim:

1. A method for tracking physical assets, the assets being moveable between a plurality of sites, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a new asset at a central site;

assigning a unique identifier to each said asset;

recording the location of said asset with respect to said central site in a database;

and

on each movement of a said asset:

recording exit of the asset from the current site in said database;

recording the intended destination site in said database; and

verifying entry of the asset at the destination site, being the new current location, in said database.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, comprising the further step of affixing indicia of said unique identifier to each said asset.

3. The method as claimed in claim 2, comprising the further steps of:

for each asset, recording configuration information relevant to that asset on said database; and

on each configuration of a said asset at said central site, updating said configuration information on said database.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said configuration information of said assets is chosen from the set including:

hardware configuration;

software configuration; and

IP (Internet Protocol) address.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein, in addition to said location information and said configuration information, there is recorded in said database a serial number and part number for each asset.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein movement of said assets occurs only between

said central site and other said sites.

7. The method of claim 1, including the further step, occurring upon return of an asset to said central site, of determining whether said asset should be retained, and thus stored for further use, or withdrawn from use.

8. A method for tracking physical assets, the assets being movable only between a central site and a plurality of other sites, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a new asset at a central site;

assigning a unique identifier to each said asset;

recording the location of said asset with respect to said central site in a database;

and

recording configuration information relevant to each asset on said database; and

on each movement of a said asset:

recording exit of the asset from the current site in said database;

recording the intended destination site in said database; and

verifying entry of the asset at the destination site, being the new current location, in said database.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein, upon each reconfiguration of an asset at the central site, said configuration information is updated in said database.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said configuration information of said assets is chosen from the set including:

hardware configuration;

software configuration; and

IP (Internet Protocol) address.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein in addition to said location information and said configuration information, there is recorded in said database a serial number and part number for each asset.

12. The method of claim 11, comprising the further step of affixing indicia of said unique identifier to each said asset.

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13. A tracking system for assets that are movable between a plurality of sites, comprising:

an electronic database for storage of current and intended location information relating to said assets; and

a central receiving and storage site where new assets are received and stored, and where assets returning from other sites are stored, said central site having data entry means, linked to said database in which a unique identifier assigned to each said asset is stored and, upon a movement of a said asset, by which exit or entry of the asset is recorded such that both the respective current and intended location information is updated in said database.

14. The tracking system of claim 13, further comprising indicia, containing said unique identifier, affixed to each said asset.

15. The tracking system of claim 14, wherein said database stores, for each asset, configuration information relevant to that asset, and said data entry means further updates said database records upon each configuration of an asset.

16. The tracking system of claim 15, wherein said configuration information includes hardware configuration, software configuration and IP address.

17. The tracking system of claim 16, wherein said database further records asset serial numbers and part numbers, input by said data entry means.

18. A tracking system for assets that are movable between a plurality of sites, comprising:

an electronic database for storage of current and intended location information relating to said assets; and

a central receiving and storage site where new assets are received and stored, and where assets returning from other sites are stored, said central site having data entry means, linked to said database in which a unique identifier assigned to each said asset and configuration information of each said asset is stored and, upon a movement of a said asset, by which exit or entry of the asset is recorded such that both the respective current and intended location information is updated in said database.

19. The tracking system of claim 18, wherein said central site also performs configuration of said assets, and, thereupon said configuration information is updated by the data entry means.

20. The tracking system of claim 19, further comprising indicia, containing said unique identifier, affixed to each said asset.

21. The tracking system of claim 20, wherein said database stores, for each asset, configuration information relevant to that asset, and said data entry means further updates said database records upon each configuration of an asset.

22. The tracking system of claim 21, wherein said configuration information includes hardware configuration, software configuration and IP address.

23. The tracking system of claim 22; wherein said database further records asset serial numbers and part numbers, input by said data entry means.

24. A computer program product, carried on a storage medium, for the tracking of physical assets, between a central site and a plurality of other sites, comprising:

first program means to record a unique identifier for each said asset;

second program means to record the location of an asset;

third program means to record exit from a current site;

fourth program means to record an intended destination; and

fifth program means to verify entry of an asset being moved at the destination site, whereupon said second program means updates the current location of the asset.

25. The computer program product of claim 24, further comprising:

sixth program means to record and update configuration information for each asset being tracked.

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